THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra Hyderabad has not telecast any serial which promotes superstition or invokes dogmas or promotes social evils. It is also not telecasting any serial or programme which has either witchcraft, blackmailing or other illegal activities.

So far as private channels are concerned, no such incidence has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Programmes of all TV Channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *Inter-alia,* prohibits carriage of programmes which encourage superstition or blind belief. Central Government has constituted an Intér-Ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programmes Code. Authorised Officers are also empowered under the Act to take action for violation of the Programme Code.

**Implementation of CAS in Metropolitan Cities**

821. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to implement CAS in the metropolitan cities with effect from the 14th July, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how general public is likely to be benefited by this;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that viewers are not exploited by the Cable Operators; and

(d) the expected Government earnings by this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government had earlier decided to implement CAS in metropolitan cities *w.e.f* 15.7.2003. After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after extensive discussions with various stakeholders, namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable

Operators, Consumer groups, etc. it has been decided to roll out the CAS in a zonal phased manner, in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the Channai Metropolitan area. *w.e.f* 1.9.2003. The notification issued on 10th July, 2003 to this effect is available in the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and for educating the subscribers.

(b) The general public is likely to be benefited in the following ways:—

(i) Government has specified Rs. 72/- (Plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music. Additional free-to-air channels would also be available to subscribers within the maximum amount mentioned.

(ii) Consumers will have the choice to pay for only those pay channels which they choose to watch.

(iii) Consumers will have a control over the content, they wish to view.

(iv) It has been made obligatory for cable operators to make provisions for rent, security deposit, repair and maintenance of Set Top Boxes (STB).

(v) Some MSOs/Cable Operators have come out with consumer friendly schemes through which the STBs will be made available to consumers.

(vi) Government has reduced the duty on import of STB and its components to make the STB more affordable.

(c) The Cable Television (Amendment) Rules, 2003, has been notified on 6.6.2003, specifying the manner of publicizing the subscription rates of pay channels, submission of quarterly report by cable operators, declaration of channels as "free-to-air" and "pay" etc. The Rules, *inter-alia*, provide that:—

(i) subscribers shall not be forced to buy more than the channel(s) of his choice through the mechanism of discounted pricing and by grouping of channels.

(ii) the cable operator shall make provisions for rent and security deposit on refund thereof as well as warranty repair and maintenance in the manner notified by the Government.

(d) It is for the benefit of consumers. Only the accruals from the tax collections would come to the Government.

**Division Bench of Supreme Court**

†822. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting up of the Supreme Court's division bench is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal for setting up a division bench in Mumbai is also under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(e) No, Sir.

**Family Courts**

†823. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States have not yet started the Family Courts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the system of Family Court would be implemented by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Madam. The Family Courts are yet to be set up in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Nagaland and in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.